

5. (Amended) A structure according to claim 1, wherein the first layer has at least one even surface.

6. (Amended) A structure according to claim 1, wherein said structure further comprises a wire net which is fixed to the first layer or to the second layer.

7. (Amended) A structure according to claim 1, wherein said structure is sandwiched between a first wire net (14) and a second wire net (15), said first net (14) being located at the inlet side, said second wire net (15) being located at the outlet side, said first wire net having meshes which are smaller than the second wire net and having wires with a diameter which is thicker than the diameter of the wires in the second wire mesh.

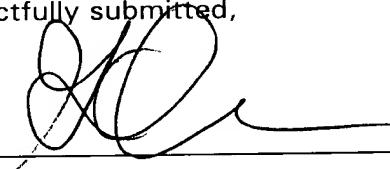
9. (Amended) A structure according to claim 1, wherein said first layer is obtainable by means of a cold isostatic pressing operation.

REMARKS

Entry of the foregoing amendments prior to examination is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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